Number 73

BAR HILL NEWSLETTER

1st November 1974

The monthly bulletin of the
Bar Hill Residents Association,
distributed to all residents

New Residents

We welcome this month:

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, 158 Pheasant Rise
Mr. and Mrs. Hones, 127 Pheasant Rise.

Firework Party

Don't forget: starts 6.45 p.m. on the waste ground between the Clinic and shops on November 5th. We have purchased £90 worth of fireworks, and the display should last about three-quarters of an hour. Refreshments will be available in the Church Centre.

The Residents Association Committee would like to thank those Residents who have generously contributed to our house-to-house collection, especially those who contributed even though they were going to parties elsewhere. If any residents intend to come to the party and have been unable to donate the 30p requested, there will be collection boxes available on the night. Remember:

6.30 Bonfire to be lit (don't forget your guy)
6.35 10-minute warning "BANG"
6.45 Display starts.

PLEASE REMAIN ON THE PATHS WHILST WATCHING THE DISPLAY. KEEP PETS INDOORS.

Nearly New Sale

Church Centre, Tuesday 12th November, 7.30 - 9.0 p.m.; and Wednesday, 13th November, 10 a.m. - 12.0. Please bring articles marked with name and price, and collect money (or unsold goods) at end of sale; one-third goes to Church funds.

Enquiries to Judith Dale, 16 Almond Grove, Crafts Hill 80542.

Coffee Morning

Tuesday, 12th November in the Church Centre from 10 a.m. till noon, in aid of Oxfam. Many beautiful Christmas gifts for sale. The coffee morning will be opened by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, Regional Organisers. Admission 10p, including coffee and children.

Newcomers

Our dates for this month are: 14th, when we have the Rev. Pat Jones, Curate of St. George's Church - a speaker with an unusual life story. On the 28th, "Christmas Table Decoration" - talk by a speaker from the Country Centre. Everyone welcome - please come and support us; creche for under-5s, tea, raffle. Church Centre, 2 p.m.

The Wallis Fashion Show was a great success, and our thanks to all those concerned. A donation of £10.00 has been paid to the Cambs. Society for Autistic Children.

8 O'Clock Club

On Thursday, 7th November at 8 p.m. in the School we have Mrs. Smail coming to speak about the work of the Red Cross. This is the last chance to enter your name for the Christmas Dinner to be held at the Cambridgeshire Hotel on 12th December. The dinner is open to members only, so those who haven't yet paid their yearly subscription should do so at this meeting. Coffee and biscuits will be served. Everyone welcome.

Dolls wanted

Has anyone got any dolls they have finished with, so we can dress them to sell at the Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of Church funds in December? If so, please give to Jo Hall, 41 Otter Close, as soon as possible.

World Wild Life

The result of the recent World Wild Life coffee morning was £51.37. Many thanks to all who helped and supported the Morning.

Jo Hall

The Cambridgeshire Society for Autistic Children

The Society wish to thank all those who so generously donated sugar and sweets for their Sweet Stall at the Cambridge Combined Charities Bazaar at the Guildhall on 26th October. The amount raised by the Sweet Stall was £50.

The Cambridge Concert Orchestra are giving a concert of "Your Kind of Music" at the Netherhall Upper School, Queen Edith's Way, in aid of the Society on Thursday, 7th November at 8 p.m. Tickets (adults 40p, children 20p) from 56 Fox Hollow.

M. Heppell, Hon.Sec.

1st Bar Hill Brownie Guide Pack and Cub Pack

Coffee morning Saturday, 9th November 10 - 12 in the School hall; proceeds to the Village Green equipment fund. Cakes, Christmas cards, toys, comics, etc., for sale; raffle. Adults 5p, children 2p.

Help wanted We are always looking for people to help with Brownies and Cubs. If you have an hour to spare on Mondays (Brownies) or Fridays (Cubs), in the early evening, please contact Mrs. Harbottle (80232) or Mr. Craske (80570).

Fermenters' Guild

On 22nd October the first Annual Wine Competition was held in the School. The event was extremely successful, rivalled only by the summer barbecue. All types of "home-made" wines were exhibited, and the standard of presentation was very high. The Guild offers its sincere thanks to Mrs. Paul, Secretary of the Cambridge Wine Circle, who carried out the judging in a very cordial yet expert manner. A silver trophy will be awarded to the overall winner, Mr. Alan Brown of Fox Hollow, at the next meeting.

Tuesday, 19th November 8 p.m. in the School: A.G.M., election of organising committee, Christmas entertainment. Will all members please make certain to attend.

N.B. Has anyone found a heavy, all-metal corkscrew, lost since the September meeting? - great sentimental value.

David Morgan, Hon. Sec.

Bar Hill Horticultural Society

An open meeting has been arranged for 20th November, 8.15 p.m. in the School. Mr. F. Cramp of Great Shelford will speak on "Fruit Growing in a small garden". It is hoped that all who are interested will attend.

The Trading Centre at 18 Almond Grove is still open 11.30 - 12.30 on Sundays for the benefit of our members; notice will be given before this service closes for the winter.

Gardening notes Much work must be carried out now if your hopes for next year are to be fulfilled; the following will possibly serve as reminders: (a) Structural alterations should be completed (b) Transplant trees and shrubs as soon as possible (c) Vacant land should be turned over and prepared for cultivation (d) Lift gladioli and begonia corms and dahlia tubers; hang the plant upside down for a time to allow foliage to die (it may first be cut to within 9 inches) (e) Lift and divide 3 - 4 year-old herbaceous perennials (f) Plant new roses, but not where roses have just previously been grown: change the soil and include humus from your compost heap, with a sprinkling of bone meal or other fertilizer. (g) Sow sweet peas for early spring, giving protection from frosts.

(Horticultural advice can be obtained from any member of the Committee.)

W. C. Botfield, Hon. Sec.

New Ash Green

On Saturday, 26th October, a party of Parish Councillors, Residents' Association committee members, friends, wives and children took coach to New Ash Green, the other new English Village.

In no time, it seemed, we had travelled through Essex lanes, through the Dartford tunnel, into Kent, and there, all of a sudden, was New Ash Green. We were greeted by /the Chairman of their Parish Council who boarded the coach and told us some of the history of their village - similar to ours: the over-enthusiastic provision of amenities by the first developer (Span), and the hiatus while the village changed hands (to Bovis), and everyone wondered whether the scheme would be abandoned.

We walked to the shopping centre. There it was - the interesting layout which "can't be done" in Bar Hill, which "wouldn't be viable" - the sort of non-rectangular interesting twentieth century eqiovalent of The Lanes for which we pleaded: so much more imaginative than a Superstore. The first thing I saw was a butcher's shop -

New Ash Green, contd.

brightly lit, red meat hanging up in the window . . . and a baker's . . . and a delicatessen. And happy-looking people, scurrying about, buying things. Some 30 shops in all, well, one an antique-selling cafe and another "The Ashes", restaurant: coffee, lunches, dinner dances to live music.

The phases of housing are rather dispersed, and it is disconcerting to find main roads to cross in the village - one can get rather attached to the imperfect old Radburn principle. No aeroplanes at New Ash Green, but Brands Hatch is very close, and those enthusiastic drivers start practising at first light, it seems.

The houses, Span or Bovis, whatever price range, have a certain sameness about them: none of the variety of Bar Hill, even in our most conventional phases. Plenty of greenery, but a limitation to four standard shrubs: we are presenting them with an ash tree to commemorate our visit. If they visit us, will they bring a Bar? They need it more than we: the foundations of their local are only just being laid; at least we have The Fox and the Country Club. Bovis is also building a £70,000 village hall: at present an empty shop is used for this purpose, and another for a village office. Maintenance charges are high - but include road and footpath maintenance (the residents want to keep their ways private), and a quadrennial external house-paint.

On Sunday I toured Bar Hill again, and admired its compactness, its variety, its freedom from traffic. I envy New Ash Green its shopping centre, though.

Lastly, the thanks: to our counterparts in New Ash Green, who met us, showed us around, provided coffee to an unexpected number of guests, answered innumerable questions; to all who supported the trip; to Mark Pettit for organising it; and to the children for being so good.

Observer

Meeting of Parish Council on 15th October 1974

A604 Junction Minor improvements have been made to the exit lane. Could all those who have the urge to drive on the grass to the left of the exit lane in order to get to Huntingdon quicker, please try and restrain themselves, as the mud they carry on to the exit lane near the A604 is dangerous.

Will those going towards Cambridge please make a conscious effort to keep to the right of the exit lane as much as possible.

Flyover The report in the Press is good news, in that work is to start in January 1975 and will take some 18 months to complete.

Central Area We are obtaining clarification from the Developers on their plans for this area, particularly as they affect the Village Hall.

Slide The extension for the slide in the park has been fixed.

Village Green The Scouts/Cubs have very kindly agreed to pick up stones from the Village Green. If any adult can help by bringing himself and a barrow, can he please have a word with Gerry Craske, 19 Partridge Drive.

Lights/Roads The urgent problem of Pheasant Rise lighting has been solved in part only, but we are still trying to get the rest of the lights switched on and the final road surface laid.

Flagpoles All eight offending poles have now been taken away.

Aircraft noise We are still concerned that the frequency of flights from Alconbury will increase when RAF Oakington is closed. We are therefore following up our earlier letters to obtain further information.

Village Trust Two exploratory meetings have been held with the Developers in conjunction with the Residents Association. There are reasons for querying the idea that a Village Trust shoudl carry out the maintenance of the Village. The possibility of a village organisation doing this work is being investigated and obviously at some point a village meeting will be required at which the alternatives can be explained. No decision of any sort has been made yet, though.

Telephone Boxes We are trying to obtain the agreement of the Post Office to the provision of an additional box "up the hill".

Population Census As the village is about one-third its planned size and we are going through a period of little growth, we have agreed that a simple Population Survey be undertaken. This will not involve everyone being visited, but will be completed by various people living in the different areas of the Village.

Water Mains As a result of the recent burst mains and the disruption caused, we are trying to find out whether certain pipes will cause trouble in the future.

Buses Complaints have been passed to the Eastern Counties Bus Company about irregular services at 8 a.m.

Planning Applications The Council approved the application by Mr. K. Andersen of 47 Fox Hollow to build a garage on the side of his house.

Full text of the Minutes are on the Noticeboard near Keymarkets.

Next Meeting Tuesday, 19th November at 8 p.m. in the School. Anybody can come.

Mark Pettit, Clerk

Bar Hill Residents Association
From the Secretary's Notepad

BHRA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Friday, 15th November at 8 p.m. in the School. Nominations for Committee Members must be in the hands of the Secretary by Friday, 8th November, duly proposed and seconded by members of the Residents Association. (This includes existing Committee Members.) We have places for 12 Committee Members, and at present there are 2 vacancies. Items for the Agenda should also be in by this date.

The Committee have decided that they will not recommend an increase in the annual membership fee of 50p (How's that for beating inflation?) We hope therefore that we shall beat this year's record 300+ membership when we start our membership drive in November. If any residents want to know how that money is spent, and what work is done on their behalf, we would like to see you at our AGM on 15th November.

Hire of the School Hall

Following our report in last month's Newsletter, we would like to thank the School Managers for their decision to review the rules about Bars at functions in the School, and treat each application on its merits.

Christmas Dance

We have booked a new Group, "Magnum Opus" for our Dance on 13th December, with the added attraction of the "Pace" Disco. We have taken account of our patrons in the past, who have complained about the volume of groups we have used; and we promise you that you will be able to enjoy yourselves and leave your ear-plugs at home this time!

Tickets will be available at the AGM on 15th November, price £1 with a special reduction to 80p for current members of the Association.

Parking, Otter Close/Gardens

Yes, the problem of parking has raised its ugly head again! It would appear from complaints received that, apart from the usual problem of people not using their garages, that there is now the added problem of commercial vehicles being parked in front of garages. The net result of this, of course, is that residents cannot put their cars away anyway. Could we therefore respectfully request the owners of these commercial vehicles to park these in the Industrial Area, in order to relieve the congestion.

Refuse Dumping

The Developers recently cleaned up the area adjacent to the junction of Pheasant Rise and the perimeter road. It would appear that the residents who were used to dumping rubbish here did not notice that the area had been tidied up, and continued to litter what will be an amenity area.

So please, if we are to continue to get co-operation from the Developers, do not provoke their displeasure, and that of the residents overlooking this point, by indiscriminate dumping.

Developers' Vehicles

We have had a request from residents at the end of Oatlands Avenue to see if the Developers will move their vehicle park from its present site, now that Phase 7 is nearly complete. We will do our best.

What is it?

In our September issue we asked our readers for suggestions as to what the Developers were doing at the entrance to the Village. Some of the printable ideas are as follows:

An underground Superstore
A paddling pool
Just another hole
A sloping lake for Irishmen with water skis
A large sand pit for the Developers to bury their heads in.

The official explanations is that it is a "balancing lake" for Childerley Creek, to stop this part of the Village flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

Kevin Read-Jones, 23 Fox Hollow

THIS IS A PRIVATE PUBLICATION AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION